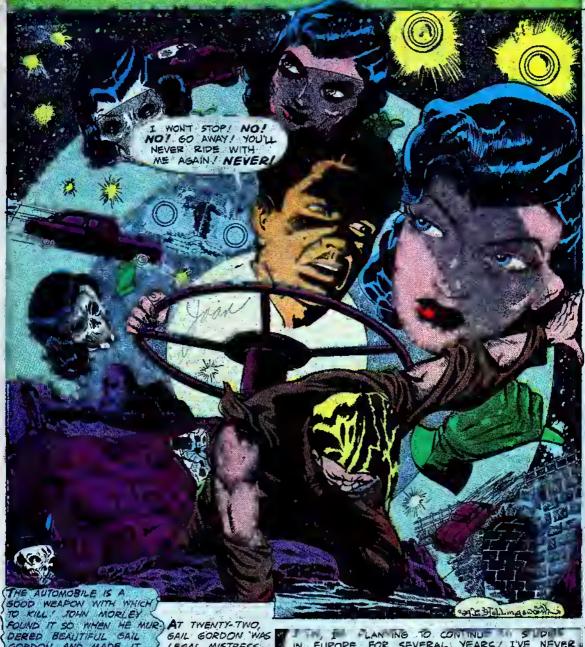






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## the PHANTOM HITCH-HIKER



THE AUTOMOBILE IS A

SOOD WEAPON WITH WHICH

TO KILL' JOHN MORLEY

FOUND IT SO WHEN HE MURDERED BEAUTIFUL GAIL

GORDON AND MADE IT

LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT!

BUT YOU CAN'T FOOL

THE STRANGE FORCES OF

THE UNKNOWN! GRIM

JUSTICE WAS METED OUT!

TO JOHN MORLEY, WHEN

HE ENCOUNTERED.

THE PHANTOM HITCH-HIKER GAIL GORDON WAS
LEGAL MISTRESS
OF HER FATHER'S
ESTATE. SHE HAD
LET JOHN MORLEY, HER GUARDIAN, CONTROL IT
FROM THE TIME
SHE HAD INHERITED IT, BECAUSE
SHE WAS ABSORBED
WITH HER MUSICAL CAREER-BUT,
NOW...

















MORLEY NEVER STOPPED FOR HITCH-HIKERS, BUT THE TRIM FIGURE OF THIS BIRL AS SHE STOOD THUMBING A RIDE WAS INTERESTING, AND.

TILL PICK HER UP! DON'T MIND A COMPANION LIKE HER ON THIS NICE TO MOONLIT NIGHT!



MORROR PLOOBED HIM AS HE SPED ON! BUT, OF COURSE, IT HADN'T BEEN BAIL! HOW COULD ITVE BEEN 2'YET NOW, A FEW MILES FURTHER ON, SUDDENLY HE SAW...

THERE SHE IS AGAIN!

I MUST BE CRAZY-
LT CAN'T BE!



THE UNKNOWN! WHO SHALL EVER FATHOM ITS STRANGE WAYS 3 THERE WAS ANOTHER NIGHT!

























## The HANDS of DEATH!



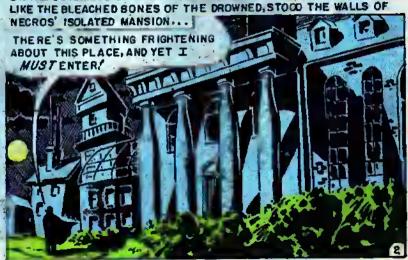


















SUDDENLY, WORDS CRACKLED FROM NECROS' LIPS, AND THE ROOM FILLED WITH A WRITHING CLOUD OF MIST, LADEN WITH THE ROTTEN STENCH OF DEATH!





AS THOUGH IN A DATE, OULAN INSPECTED THE FIRST HORRIBLE PAIR OF OUTSTRETCHED HANDS!

NO..NOT THESE ... THE FINGERS ARE TOO NARROW... NOT STRONG ENOUGH!

























UNKNOWN TO HIM, WITH A GUNNING WILL OF THEIR OWN. THE HANDS REACHED OUT! THE FINGERS, LIKE TEN VICIOUS, WRITHING SERPENTS, CLUTCHED AND GRASPED ... AND SQUEEZED!







FOR THE REST OF THE TRIP, OULAN KEPT HIS HANDS FOLDED IN FRONT OF HIM...



HE GOT ONE AT THE FIRST STOP, REGISTERED IN A HOTEL, AND LOCKED HIMSELF IN HIS ROOM...

THEY'RE HORRIBLE ... WICKED ... WHENEVER I PASSED SOMEONE ON THE STREET, I FELT THEM ACHING TO CLAW AT THE WARM FLESH OF



AND THEN, ONE DAY, THERE WAS A KNOCK ON DULAN'S



ERIK GOOD LORD, MAN! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? YOU... YOU LOOK GHASTLY! I'VE BEEN SEARCHING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU! I FINALLY LOCATED...



BUT AS SOON AS THE DOOR WAS



MOMENTS LATER ...





LATER, AT THE STATION HOUSE ...

I KNEW THAT GUY WAS LYING WHEN
HE SAID HE WAS DULAK, THE VIOLINIST.
THESE PRINTS SHOW PLAIN AS DAY
THAT HE'S KURT LAJOS... WANTEO
FOR STRANGLING IN A DOZEN



YEH...SURE! NOTHING MUCH...
I DOUBLE EXCEPT THAT LAJOS
CHECKED! WAS TRIED, CONVICTED
WHAT'S ANO ELECTROCUTEO TENWRONG? YEARS AGO!I...I SAW.
NIM BURN MYSELF!

NECROS, ANO ALL DULAN HEARD WAS THE HOLLOW ECHO OF HIS OWN VOICE AND A HINT OF HORRIBLE SPECTRAL LAUGHTER FROM THE OARK CORNERS OF THE ROOM....





WAS IT HIS IMAGINATION, OR WAS DULAN'S CELL REALLY FILLED WITH THE ASHEN FIGURES OF THE LONG DEAD... MOCKING HIM



# The THING from the GRAVE!

If I hadn't decided to major in archeology none of this would have happened. But just as soon as I attended my first class and heard the handsome young professor explain how the history of mankind can be read in bits of bone and pottery dug out of the earth, I knew that this was the only subject I wanted to study.

Looking back, however, I have to admit that the fart that Professor Richard Jones was an attractive may have had something to do with my decision. And after I bad attended his class only six times, he kept me after school, supposedly to discuss a special problem. But we both knew what the problem was, and it was only a matter of weeks before we were engaged.

It was Dick who told me about the old Indian tribe that had lived in our town hundreds of years ago.

"Might be a lot of interesting stuff waiting for someone to dig it up." he said. "The trouble is, though—the tribe lived on the piece of land that is now the graveyard! Can't very well go around digging up graves, can we?"

I looked at him in amazement. "My goodness, why not?" I asked. "It's all in the interests of science and human knowledge!"

He looked dubious, "Well,"
he said, at a one thing to go

digging in a bunch of foreign, deserted tombs, but hits another thing to start ripping up the graves in your own town's cemetery!

Then I got the idea. "Richard!" I squealed. 'Let's go there tonight! We'll only dig for a little while. Nobody will see us, an' think of what fun it would be if we found something really important!"

He tried to protest, but when I make up my mind to do something-well, he didn't struggle long....

The cemetery was dark. We moved well into the center of it, so that we would be completely out of sight of any curious passers by. I lighted the lantern we had brought with us, and set it down on the nearest gravestone. Might as well start to dig right here, Richard, I told him.

Richard gave a resigned shrug and started to swing the pick up to his shoulder. Then suddenly he stopped. 'Look what it says on the gravescone!" he said.

Who disturbs my sleeping trust Will be changed to mortal dust!



I read it aloud. "Isn't that a queer epitaph," I exclaimed. But you re not supers. lucus, are you Dick?" I noticed that he had grown pale, but he forced a grin and started to dig. It was when the point of the pick bit into the springy green sod for the second sime that we noticed the smell. It was an odor which warned of death and age and mystic occurences. Richard stared at me in great wonderment, but before he could speak there was a clap like thunder, and a great crack appeared in the grave at our feet. Up from crack. squeaking and beating their wings, flew two great bass. And following them out came - IT!

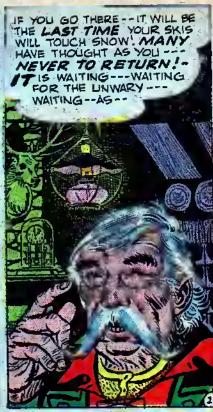
It flowed out of the grave like a cloud of smoke, yet I saw the bony, skull-like face and the long Indian-block hau that streamed around the scraggly neck. The monster's huge, trap-like hands closed around Richard's throat. I stared in amszed horror, and then I screamed hysterically and ran....

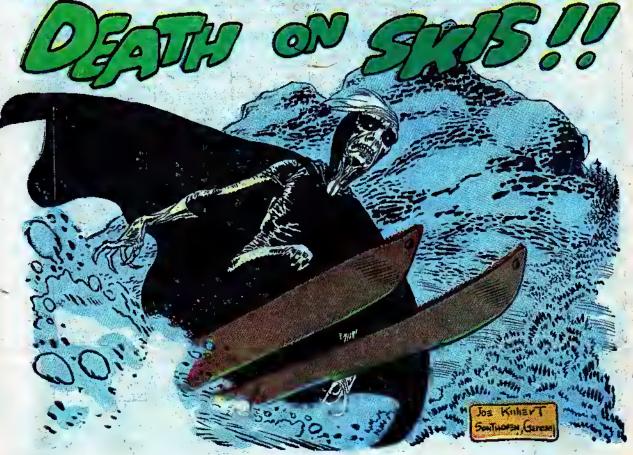
They're holding me on suspicion of murder, Several people saw us enter the graveyard together. Of course, they haven't been able to find the body. They keep trying to persuade me to show them where I hid the corpse after I murdered Richard. Of course, I tell them about the spirit that came out of the grave, but they send the psychiatrist in whenever I mention that. even took them to the cemetery to show them whère it happened. But, at the grave, the pick and the lantern were gone, and Richard was nowhere to be seen. And a pile of dust stood by the foot of the grave, and whenever the breeze blew it grew smaller Rose Augustus

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T WAS LATE AFTERNOON AND THE SHOW WAS SLICK AND FAST...A MILLION FLAKES FLAGHED DAMONDS AS THE SETTING SUN DROPPED BEHIND THE HORIZON... PETE JOHNSON SPED OVER THE ICY SLOPES! THIS WAS LIVING! - AND ALL THOUGHTS OF THE SKIING GHOST "HAD VANISHED, AS HE SET HIS PACE...





FAR ABOVE ON A RIDGE
OVERLOOKING THE NORTH
GLOPE A GRIM SPECTRE
STOOD ETCHED AGAINST
THE SKIES
THIS IS NO JOKE!-NEIN!
MY SON'S DEATH WAS
NO JOKE!--THE WHITENESS
OF THE SNOW WILL BE
RED--WITH YOUR
BLOOD!

FEAR SHOOK PETE JOHNSON INTO MOTION! - DEATH HAD CALLED TO HIM! COULD HE ESCAPE ITS WRATH AT LEAST HE WOULD TRY!

HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE RUN FOOL RUN! --SEE IF YOU CAN OUTRUN MY VENGEANCE!



IT WAS A WEIRD SCENE, AS THE TWO FIGURES SPED AT BREAK-NECK SPEED THROUGH THE ALPINE PASSES! ONE WAS BENT ON SUSTAINING LIFE -- THE OTHER -- DEATH !! - AS THE SPECTRE'S LAUGHTER ECHOED AND RE-ECHOED THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS ...





















CHOPIN'S RAINDROP! A LITTLE SONG OF LOVE...
AND WITH IT, THE BOAR OF A STORM... THE BEATING,
POUNDING OF WAVES... AND THE RAIN DROPPING
DOWN... ALWAYS THE TERRIBLE, INSISTENT DROPPING OF THE RAIN! NO, AS PARKER PLAYED...



FOR MONTHS, NOW, THE LITTLE MELODY HAD EVOKED THIS VISION FOR PARKER! HE CALLED HER NONA! AND LIKE PYGMALION, THE SCULPTOR WHO FELL IN LOVE WITH HIS STATUE OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, SO PARKER HAD COME TO LOVE THIS



PARKER KNEW, OF COURSE, THE TRAGIC STORY OF HOW CHOPIN HAD COME TO COMPOSE THE LITTLE PRELUDE! THERE HAD BEEN A WOMAN WHOM CHOPIN HAD LOVED DEARLY, AND ONE NIGHT HE HAD HAD A TERRIBLE DREAM OF HER...HE DREAMED THAT THERE WAS A WILD STORM, AND...







...SO CHOPIN COMPOSED
THE IMMORTAL LITTLE
PRELUDE WHICH HAS
COME TO BE KNOWN AS
THE "RAINDROP"/AND
THIS DARK NIGHT, AS
YOUNG PARKER PLAYS
IT... \_OH--SHE'S
GOING! NONA, DEAR--





A KNOCK SOUNDED AT PARKER'S DOOR! AND WHEN HE OPENED IT... WHY... THANK YOU!

HY. I--I WAS
COME JUST PASSING
IN, IN THIS
PLEASE! TERRIBLE
STORM--AND
I HEARD YOU
PLAYING!I--I
LOVE THAT



ITWAS SO STRANGE HAVING HER HERE--THIS
REALITY OF HIS FANCIES! SHE LOOKEDSO
LIKE THE VISION...HIS
NONA! YOUR CLOTHES
ARE SOAKED!SIT HERE,
THE WARMTH WILL
DRY YOU! THANK
YOU! YOU'RE









NO! NO! YOU MUST NOT!I GAN'T LET YOU DO IT! YOU DON'T UNDER-STANO! DON'T GO! OH,MY DARLING-I'M COMING WITH YOU!

AND ALTHOUGH HE FRANTICALLY TRIED TO FOL-LOW HER, SUDDENLY IT WAS AS THOUGH HIS BODY HAD HIT AN INVISIBLE WALL! HE SEEMED TO FEEL HIMSELF FALLING --YET SOME-THING OF HIM WAS RUSHING ON... RUSHING TO

OH, MY
DARLING! WAIT
FOR ME!

Was it the roaming spirit of the longdead chopin, Lming again in the reality of Frederic Parker? Was it reincarnation? And had the spirit of chopin's Loved one appeared to him as a reality to bring him back to her? Who shall say?

THE VILLAGERS FOUND YOUNG PARKER'S BODY THAT NEXT MORNING, AND...

GUESS HE MUST
HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY
LIGHTNING DURING THE
STORM! POOR FELLER!

## THE HAUNTED CAVE

The legend of the haunted cave was an old one, and Rogor Nelson liked it. Since he had been a boy he had heard about the horrible things which were supposed to have happened in the cavern. And now he and a roup of associates had a chance to buy the cave and turn it into a tourist attraction, and these chicken-livered men were hesitating because of a lot of silly superstition!

"You're acting like a bunch of children!" he told them angrily, glaring at the men grouped around the conference table. "This is our chance to clean up a fortune! Don't throw it away!"

'Well, now, Roger, I don' know,' old Sam Jenkins drawled. 'Scems to me that too many bad things have happened in that cave to be plain accidents. I ain't sayin' it's haunted.... but then again, I ain't sayin' it ain't!

Roger slapped the table top with his pain. "I'll tell you what!" he said leaping to his feet. "I'll spend a whole night in that eave, just to calm your fears. Then will you some in this thing with me?"

They looked at each other in shocked stience. Then old Sam spoke for the group. "I reckon we'd have to," he

It was black, as black as only the inside of a cavern during the hight can be. Roger squatted by the banks of the under and aver that flowed through the cave. The

air was damp and chill, and he shivered slightly. He had smashed in the lens of his flashlight while making his way into the interior of the cavern, but there was two candles in his knapsack, and he lir both of them at the same time in an attempt to take the dankness out of the air. He huddled over the tiny flame.

The wind whistled shrilly into the mouth of the cavern and raced down its length. The airy blast disturbed the clusters of bats which hung from the stalactites on the ceiling; they circled wildly, squeaking eerily as they dipped lower and lower toward the floor of the cavern. Roger listened anxiously to the beating of hundreds of wings. One bat swooped even lower than the rest, and Roger screamed as something soft and furry brushed his cheek and soared up into the inky blackness above.

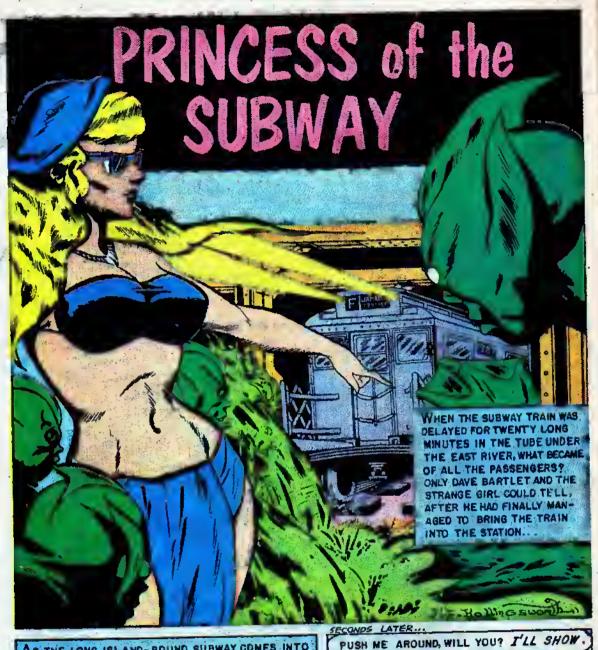


Another gust of wind shot through the cavern. This time it was even stronger than the first blast, and both of the candles were knocked over and fell into the stream of water that rushed gurglingly by. Other sounds, weird and horrible, began to ring through the cave. The hooting of a air of owls sounded low and mournful from above. The

scutting claws of great caverats scraped along the stone floor, and the squealing of the todents made Roger grow cold with distaste and loathing.

Now I see how all the rumors got started, he thought. Any one of these noises could give the place a haunted reputation. Heard together by an over-emotional person, they might well be overwhelmingly terrifying! A slithering sound to his left caused him to 'reeze in fright. Might be a water snake, he thought. He pulled free the hunting knife at his belt. The rustling, sliding sound was approaching him; now it was only inches away. Suddenly he slashed out at it with the knife. He felt the blade back into something. Then the thing was withing and thrashing around in agony. It touched his arm, a cold, clammy strand that felt as thick as a garden hose. He slashed it again and again. Then be broke out into a cold sweat. for he heard more rustling noises. Thinking that perhaps he could drive the snakes off with fire, he ignited his whole pack of matches. He held the flaming back high-and the beast which was pulling itself out of the water was clearly illuminated. It was like a giant octopus, black and shiny in the light of the flame. Roger had just time enough for one stanted shrick. Then the tentacles had wrapped around his windpipe and he was drawn down into the stream of icy water. And in the cavern above, the bats, the rats and the owls continued to make frightened, cerie noises in the inky blackness. TEPE IS IMMEDIATE CONFORT FOR YOU WITH For Men! For Women! For Children! OVER 300,000 GRATEFUL USERS! Unsalizated Testimonials From Our Thousands on Files 9, C of Corvallie, Orosea, Air Mails: "Send me another Rup-tire-Enter to I will have one to change off with, Is it anabling me to work at top speed at my press machine 8 hrs. a day. Mr. P. S. of New York City wents us to know he in-very pleased with my Ruptury-Easer. Right or Left It has given me great relief and feel more safe than ever an wearing this support. Side m. s. of Anderson, Ind., thanha us and suysi "It is one of the finest things I have ever worn and has made my life worth live. Double ing. It has given me untold ease NOW YOU CAN m, D. S. of Greenwich, N. T. weites: I find my Rupture-Easer the most comfortable and sain factors of any tries I have ever THROW AWAY THOSE GOUGING, TORTURING Mrs. L. M. C. Blackburn, Mo. writen The Rupture-Easer I bought from you has done to THE MOST EFFECTIVE TRUSSES --- GET NEW HERNIA SUPPORT WONDERFUL RELIEF mich good I couldn't forget jon Rupture Easer is the most effective Rupture bases in the most structure support on the merter today. Those support on the bark and of people who have describe turn to lashioned, expensive describe turn to this Christmas season, WITH THERE'S NO SURSTITUTE FOR PROVED PERFORMANCE Replute Kase for amoring new com-RUPTURE-EASER ORDER TODAY! A strong, form-fitting washable sup-RUPTURE-EASER IS part designed to give you relief and comfort. Snops up in front. Adjustable Unlike bidime sumbarages copports back-lacing and adjustable leg straps. Soft flat grain pad-no steel or leather SANITARY Rupture comfortable and sanibands. Unexcelled far comfart, invisible under light clothing. Washable. Also nuprove cases to comfortable and safe that it can be washed without herm to the fabric. You never afferd when used as after operation support. Sizes for men, wamen and children; Easy to Order-MAIL COUPON NOW! "(Note: Be sure to give Size and Side to the fabric You next EASY TO ORDER PIPER BRACE CO., \$11, Wyandelle, Dept. AV-72 Kenses City 6, Mo. Just measure around the lowest part of the abdomen and state right of latt side of double Places send my RUPTURE-LASER by return mail. Measure around lowest part Right Side S \$3.95 1 el my abdomen is Money back guarantee if you don't ☐: \$3,95 ·· Left Side Double . 3 \$4.95 · We Frapey Pestuge Except on C.O.D.'s (Nets: Se Sure to give Size and Side when entering.)

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AH! NOW WE'LL SEE WHO WILL RULE

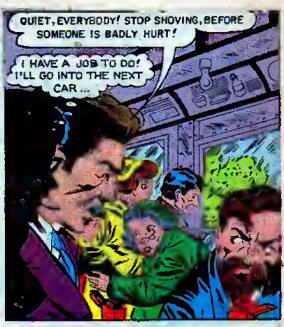






THE LIGHT GO OUT AND THROW THE PASSENGERS INTO A PANICE STRIKE A I WANT TO WHAT LIGHT HERE, GET OUT OF SOMEBODY! HAPPENED? HERE! LET ME OUT!







TAKES TRONG ACTION!

















CREATURES INTO THE TRAIN. MISS? ARE YOU MAD?

THEY ARE MY PEOPLE. AND I AM THEIR PRINCESS! AGES AGO WE WERE PUSHED INTO THE SEA AND FORCED TO DWELL THERE! NOW WE ARE MOVING BACK ONTO THE LAND TO TAKE BY FORCE WHAT IS I OURS!



SUDDENLY THE LIGHTS GO

DN AGAIN! CALL THEM



















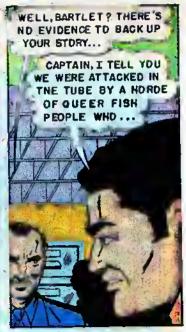


WE'VE EXAMINED THE

EAST RIVER TUBE, CAPTAIN.

THERE'S A BREAK DR TWO.

AND SHORTLY









AND AS BARTLET TEARS OFF THE GIRL'S









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Have put 3 ½
inches on my chest
(normal) and 2½ nches expanded."

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